

105TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2626

To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a children's enrollment performance bonus.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 12 (legislative day, OCTOBER 2), 1998

Mr. TORRICELLI introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

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## A BILL

To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a children's enrollment performance bonus.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Health Care for Ameri-  
5 ca’s Children Act of 1998”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) Over 10,000,000 children in the United  
9 States, 1 in 7, lack health insurance coverage.

1           (2) Nearly half of those children (4,700,000)  
2           are eligible for health benefits coverage through the  
3           medicaid program but are not enrolled in that pro-  
4           gram.

5           (3) Children without health insurance coverage  
6           are 4 times more likely to go without needed medical  
7           or surgical care.

8           (4) One out of 5 children who are uninsured for  
9           a year or longer are missing all of their current im-  
10          munizations.

11          (5) Children without health insurance are less  
12          likely to have a family doctor, less likely to receive  
13          timely preventive care, and less likely to receive  
14          treatment, even for serious illnesses.

15          (6) Uninsured children are more likely to need  
16          emergency room care at twice the cost of office-  
17          based care.

18          (7) A recent report by the Agency for Health  
19          Care Policy and Research (AHCPR) stressed the  
20          need for States to engage in outreach activities to  
21          increase the enrollment of medicaid-eligible children.

22          (8) Outreach activities like shortened and sim-  
23          plified applications, presumptive and continuous eli-  
24          gibility, and outstationing of eligibility workers in  
25          schools and day care centers have been found to be

1       effective in getting medicaid-eligible children enrolled  
2       in the medicaid program.

3       **SEC. 3. MEDICAID CHILDREN'S ENROLLMENT PERFORM-**  
4       **ANCE BONUS.**

5       Section 1903 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
6       1396b) is amended by adding at the end the following:  
7       “(x)(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with fiscal year  
8       1999 and each fiscal year thereafter, in addition to any  
9       other payment under this title, the Secretary shall pay to  
10      each State that satisfies the requirements of paragraphs  
11      (2) and (3) a children's enrollment performance bonus  
12      under this subsection for such fiscal year in such amount  
13      as the Secretary shall determine.

14      “(2) DEMONSTRATION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF  
15      OUTREACH STRATEGIES.—A State shall demonstrate to  
16      the satisfaction of the Secretary that the State has a com-  
17      mitment to reach and enroll children who are eligible for  
18      medical assistance under, but not enrolled in, the State  
19      plan under this title through effective implementation of  
20      each of the following outreach activities:

21              “(A) STREAMLINED ELIGIBILITY PROCE-  
22      DURES.—

23              “(i) IN GENERAL.—The State uses stream-  
24              lined procedures described in clause (ii) for de-  
25              termining the eligibility for medical assistance

1 under, and enrollment in, the State plan under  
2 this title of—

3 “(I) children in families with incomes  
4 that do not exceed the effective income  
5 level (expressed as a percent of the poverty  
6 line) that has been specified under such  
7 State plan (including under a waiver au-  
8 thorized by the Secretary or under section  
9 1902(r)(2) for the child to be eligible for  
10 medical assistance under section 1902(l)(2)  
11 or 1905(n)(2) (as selected by a State)) for  
12 the age of such child; and

13 “(II) children determined eligible for  
14 such assistance, and enrolled in the State  
15 plan under this title in accordance with the  
16 requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2) of  
17 section 1931(b).

18 “(ii) PROCEDURES DESCRIBED.—The  
19 streamlined procedures described in this clause  
20 include—

21 “(I) using shortened and simplified  
22 applications for the children described in  
23 clause (i);

1 “(II) eliminating the assets test for  
2 determining the eligibility of such children;  
3 and

4 “(III) allowing applications for such  
5 children to be submitted by mail or tele-  
6 phone.

7 “(B) CONTINUOUS ELIGIBILITY FOR CHIL-  
8 DREN.—The State provides (or demonstrates to the  
9 satisfaction of the Secretary that, not later than fis-  
10 cal year 2001, the State shall provide) for 12-  
11 months of continuous eligibility for children in ac-  
12 cordance with section 1902(e)(12).

13 “(C) PRESUMPTIVE ELIGIBILITY FOR CHIL-  
14 DREN.—The State provides (or demonstrates to the  
15 satisfaction of the Secretary that, not later than fis-  
16 cal year 2001, the State shall provide) for making  
17 medical assistance available to children during a pre-  
18 sumptive eligibility period in accordance with section  
19 1920A.

20 “(D) OUTSTATIONING AND ALTERNATIVE AP-  
21 PPLICATIONS.—The State complies with the require-  
22 ments of section 1902(a)(55) (relating to  
23 outstationing of eligibility workers for the receipt  
24 and initial processing of applications for medical as-

1       sistance and the use of alternative application  
2       forms).

3               “(E) SIMPLIFIED VERIFICATION OF ELIGI-  
4       BILITY REQUIREMENTS.—The State demonstrates to  
5       the satisfaction of the Secretary that the State uses  
6       only the minimum level of verification requirements  
7       as are necessary for the State to ensure accurate eli-  
8       gibility determinations under the State plan under  
9       this title.

10       “(3) REPORT ON NUMBER OF ENROLLMENTS RE-  
11       SULTING FROM OUTREACH.—A State shall annually re-  
12       port to the Secretary on the number of full year equivalent  
13       children that are determined to be eligible for medical as-  
14       sistance under the State plan under this title and are en-  
15       rolled under the plan as a result of—

16               “(A) having been provided presumptive eligi-  
17       bility in accordance with section 1920A;

18               “(B) having submitted an application for such  
19       assistance through an outstationed eligibility worker;  
20       and

21               “(C) having submitted an application for such  
22       assistance by mail or telephone.

23       “(4) NO SUBSTITUTION OF SPENDING.—Amounts  
24       paid to a State under this subsection shall be used to sup-  
25       plement and not supplant other Federal, State, or local

1 funds provided to the State under this title or title XXI.  
2 Amounts provided to the State under any other provisions  
3 of this title shall not be reduced solely as a result of the  
4 State's eligibility for a performance bonus under this sub-  
5 section.”.

